THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) The adjudication proceedings against Thapar Group involving an amount of Rs. 14 crores approx. have been initiated by issue of 31 Show Cause Notices. However, the exact amount involved in contravention will be determined on completion of adjudication proceedings in respect of all Show Cause Notices. Out of 31 Show Cause Notices issued, orders have been passed in respect of three show cause notices issued to M/s. Jg. Glass Industries Ltd., Pune. The charge contained in one Show Cause Notice has been dropped and charges contained in other two show cause notices have been upheld and penalty of Rs. 25,05,000/- and Rs. 1,50,000/- have been imposed on M/s. Jg. Glass Industries Ltd. and Shri S.S. Lall, one of the Directors of the Company. Shri L. M. Thapar undertook to co-operate in adjudication proceedings which implied undertaking to repatriate the amount involved in FERA violations, determinable in such proceedings. The penalties to be levied and the decision, in respect of launching prosecution would be taken on completion of adjudication proceedings in all the cases.

Setting up of a Central Land Use Commission

3416. DR. G. VIJAY MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of a Central Land Use Commission was mooted in 1972 and if so, the action taken thereon as reported in Patriot of 13th July, 1988;

(b) whether land has been neglected for too long and if so, corrective steps proposed in the matter;

(c) whether N. D. Tiwari Committee on Environment appointed in 1980 has submitted its report and if so, follow up action taken on each of the major recommendations; and

(d) whether these recommendations have proved beneficial for land management and control of drought, floods etc.?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The issue of the setting up of a Central Land Use Commission was first examined by the Central Government in 1972 and in 1974. The State Governments were requested to set up State Land Use Boards under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers. The State Governments have set up such Boards to review and monitor policies about land management. In its recommendations submitted to the Government in 1980, the Committee which was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri N.D. Tiwari, had recommended the setting up of a Central Land Use Commission. This was accepted by the Government and in February 1983, a two-tier body was set up as follows:--

(i) National Land Board (NLB) and

(ii) National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission (NLRCDC). In 1985, the two-tier body was re-organised as follows:

(i) National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council (NLWC) with Prime Minister as Chairman, Union Ministers, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Chairman, NWDR and Chief Ministers as Members.

(ii) National Land Use and Conservation Boards (NLCB) in place of NLRCDC with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman.

(iii) National Wasteland Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) Land in India has been subject to degradation because of the pressure of human and cattle population and other demands on land in the process of development. The Government of India have been aware of these problems and right from the first Five Year Plan comprehensive programmes have been undertaken to check soil and land degradation. Several schemes undertaken are as follows:--

(1) Institutional strengthening for research and implementation of soil conservation programmes.

(2) Intensive soil conservation programmes of the State Governments with Central assistance.

(3) Watershed management programmes.

(4) Desert Development programmes and drought prone areas programme.

(5) Programmes to check deforestation and promote afforestation.

(6) Rural development programmes to promote schemes in sectors other than agriculture which reduce pressure on land.

(c) Yes, Sir. Follow up action taken on each of the major recommendations is as follows:--

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES:

1.1 *Recommendation*: A Department of Environment be created in the Central Government to serve as a nodal agency for protection of environment and eco-development and equipped sufficiently to monitor the environment and to review the relevant legislation on a continuous basis.

Action taken: The Department of Environment was set up with effect from November 1, 1980. It become part of the new Ministry of Environment and Forests which was constituted on 4th January, 1985 by merging the Department of Environment with the Department of Forests and Wildlife of Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry, being the nodal Department in the administrative structure of the Central Government, plays a 'watchdog' role for environmental protection and planning, promotion and coordination of environmental and forestry programmes. The Ministry reviews the existing legislation and takes action to amend the legislation, wherever necessary. It discharges the functions recommended by the Committee, including environmental appraisal of development projects, pollution monitoring and regulation, conservation and eco-development.

1.2 *Recommendation*: Environmental issues should receive adequate consideration at the highest levels including the Planning Commission.

Action taken: The purpose of this recommendation has been achieved by establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and consideration of environmental issues at the higher level of Government including the Cabinet as per the Transaction of Business Rules of the Government. The Member, Planning Commission incharge of Natural Resources and Environment deals with the subject in the Planning Commission.

1.3 *Recommendation*: A National Committee on Environmental Planning be constituted to provide planning and advisory inputs.

Action taken: A high level National Committee on Environmental Planning (NCEP) was set up by the Government on 1st April, 1981 initially for a period of 2 years and was extended by another year. The

Committee was dissolved after the expiry of its terms and a new Committee known as National Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC) was constituted with effect from 16th January, 1984 with the Minister-incharge as its chairman for a period of two years.

After the expiry of the term of this Committee it has not been reconstituted. The Government is considering constitution of a high powered environmental authority to assist the Government in formulation of policy and to implement Government's policy in all matters concerning environment.

1.4 *Recommendation*: All administrative ministries and agencies whose plans and programmes have an impact on environment should develop internal structures to assess environmental impact and posts of Environmental Advisors should be created in shch Ministries.

Action taken: The administrative ministries and the project authorities are responsible for preparation of environmental impact statements as part of the Detailed Project Reports with regard to their developmental projects It was not felt necessary to create separate posts of Environmental Advisers in various ministries.

1.5 *Recommendation*: An appropriate Department of State Governments be designated to look after environmental protection and technical support provided to these Departments.

Action taken: In 87 States and 3 Union Territories, State Governments have set up Department of Environment. In respect of other State, the State Governments have identified the nodal departments.

A scheme for providing assistance to State Departments for strengthening their technical manpower, has been included in the Seventh Pan. So far 18 States and 4 Union Territories have availed of this asistance. Rs. 30.321 lakhs were disbursed during 1985-86, Rs. 41.615 lakhs during 1986-87 and Rs. 16.63 lakhs during 1987.88.

1.6 *Recommendation*: Protection of marine eco-systems should be the responsibility of a single Central Agency.

Action taken: The Department of Ocean Development has been given the responsibility for protection of the marine environment and ecosystems.

Coastal pollution is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with the Department of Ocean Development.

1.7 *Recommendation*: Central Land Commission be set up State Land Use Boards as activated to ensure scientific management of land resources.

Action taken: In February 1983, the National Land Board (NLB) and National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission (NLRCDC) were set up. Consequent to the recommendations made by these bodies State Land Use Boards were established or reconstituted in many States. A Committee of experts was also set up to draft a National Land Use Policy.

The NLB and NLRCDC were reorganised in 1985 into the National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council (NLWC) (with Prime Minister as Chairman), the National Land Use and Conservation Board (NLCB) and the National Wastelands Development Board.

The National Land Use Policy was adopted by the NLWC in February, 1986. This policy specially emphasizes the scientific principles of arresting watershed degradation and soil erosion and land degradation through natural or man-made activities.

The State Land Use Boards have been activated and have initiated steps for scientific management of land.

1.8 *Recommendation*: Legislative measures and executive action be taken to curb degradation of environment.

Action taken: The Government has taken legislative and executive steps to survey and conserve and protect the environment. The Ganga Action Plan, the setting up of the National Wastelands Development Board, setting up of eco-task forces of ex-servicemen for taking up regeneration works in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir and initiation of several eco-regeneration schemes are the steps taken to regenerate degraded parts of environment.

19. *Recommendation*: Fuel and fodder supply be included in the minimum needs programme.

Action taken: Rural fuel wood plantation has been included in the minimum needs programme during the seventh Five Year Plan, from 1985-86. It was not considered necessary to include fodder supply in the programme.

2. PERSONNEL

Recommendation: Adequate trained manpower must be developed for environmental protection.

Action taken: Availability of trained manpower is achieved through training activities in environmental management, pollution control and forestry to the relevant groups. Intensive training is imparted to Forest Officers at the National Forest Academy, the State Forest Service Colleges, and the Forest Ranger Colleges. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, was set up in 1982, to train personnel for expanding network of national parks and sanctuaries.

3. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Recommendation: Steps be taken towards environmental education and awareness.

Action taken: The Department gives priority for promoting environmental education, dissemination of information and creation of awareness among all groups through various programmes such as, seminars, exhibitions, ecological clubs and eco-development camps. The Department organises annually National Environment Awareness Campaign and National Environmental Month with main thrust on the promotion of better understanding of the importance of protection of environment and nature.

The National Museum of Natural History, an organisation of the Ministry, serves to achieve the objectives by conducting exhibitions, educaitonal programmes and lectures study tours, films shows, etc., for school children and teachers. The Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad assisted by the Government prepares high quality educational material for children of urban/rural communities which include guide books and illustrative document projecting nature and natural resources.

4. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Recommendation: Problems of environmental aspects of human settlements be studied.

Action taken: The erstwhile Ministry of Works and Housing had constituted, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Tiwari Committee, an expert committee to consider the environmental aspects of Human settlements in August, 1982. The Committee submitted its report on 31st December, 1984, giving various recommendations regarding environmental aspects of human settlements.

Environmental considerations are taken into account in the planning of new settlements and in the growth of existing settlements, as far as posible. Guidelines for the development of new towns and contonments have been issued .

5. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

5.1 *Recommendation*: A National Environmental Policy Resolution be adopted.

Action taken: A National Envirmental Policy Resolution has not been adopted. However, the various legislations for environmental protection are in consonance with the principles contained in the draft resolution suggested by the Committee.

5.2 *Recommendation*: Existing legislations be reviewed and strengthened.

Action taken: The existing laws have been reviewed. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are being amended comprehensively. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended to regulate trade in ivory, to totally ban dealings in specified animals and articles made therefrom and to enhance penalties for offenders. Amendments have been made in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1951 to ensure ecologically sound management of mining areas. A revised National Forest Policy is under consideration of the Government and amendments to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 will be considered after the proposed revision. The Factories Act has been reviewed and amended. Amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act and Motor Vehicles Act are being considered

5.3 *Recommendation*: New lelgislation be enacted in areas of relevance.

Action taken: The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was enacted and comprehensive amendments have been made in the Act in 1987 to make it more effective. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 enables the protection of environment in a comprehensive manner. Based on guidelines and a model bil circulated by the Central Government, six State Governments have enacted suitable legislation to prevent over-fishing in coastal waters.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Import of Palm Oil by STC

3417. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation has contracted for import of palm oil from Malaysia on "CIF" basis instead of "FOB":

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the above Indian Shipping lines are losing freight to other flag vessels; and

(c) if so the reasons for STC's preferring "CIF" clause to "FOB"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Presently, STC is importing palm oil from Malaysia on CIF basis. STC has, however, been trying to utilise Indian bottoms to the extent available from time to time, to competitive raest. Between the period January, 1986 to July 1987 Indian flag vessels have been utilised for about 37 voyages representing 30 per cent of the carriage of palm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia to India.

STC has been asked to explore possibilities of FOB imports, keeping in view the fact that edible oil being a sensitive item of mass human consumption has to be made available as per the programme given by the Government.